

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01246 091646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /078 W
-----100228Z 098022 /62

R 091511Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 4540
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1246

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, WB, GW, GE, FR, UK
SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNING MAYOR APPRAISES SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

1. SUMMARY. IN FIRST MEETING MAY 9 WITH ALLIED COM-
MANDANTS AND MINISTERS SINCE HIS ELECTION, NEW GOVERNING
MAYOR STOBBE GAVE SOBER, REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF EXTERNAL
AND INTERNAL BERLIN PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS SPD PARTY PROBLEMS,
AND SAID HE FEELS CALM AND CONFIDENT ABOUT TACKLING THEM.
HE SAID ONLY ONE MORE DECISION IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE HIS
GOVERNMENTAL LINE-UP, WHICH WILL INCLUDE NEW FACES FROM
OUTSIDE BERLIN, AND THAT HE HOPES LINE-UP CAN BE MADE PUBLIC
AND CONFIRMED ON MAY 11. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 9 NEW GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE MADE WHAT WAS IN
EFFECT JOINT COURTESY CALL ON THREE ALLIED COMMANDANTS
AND MINISTERS IN ALLIED KOMMANDATURA BUILDING. HE TOOK
OCCASION TO GIVE CAREFULLY-PREPARED STATEMENT ON HIS
ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW POSITION, INTENTIONS, PROBLEMS, ETC.
HE WAS SOBER-FACED AND IMPRESSIVE AS HE SAID HE IS WELL-
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PAGE 02 USBERL 01246 091646Z

AWARE OF WHAT BERLIN NEEDS, BOTH IN EXTERNAL AND IN-
TERNAL TERMS, ALSO OF REQUIREMENT TO RE-VITALIZE SPD
HERE, WHICH HE FRANKLY SAID HAD BECOME LESS AND LESS COM-
PETENT TO TAKE HARD CHOICES AND MAKE GOOD DECISIONS OVER
PAST FEW YEARS.

3. STOBBE EMPHASIZED HIS AWARENESS OF BED-ROCK CON-

SIDERATIONS VITAL FOR BERLIN--CONTINUED ALLIED PRESENCE AND SUPPORT, AND FRG PACKING ANS SUPPORT, BUT SAID THAT HE INTENDS DO WHAT HE CAN TO MAKE BERLINERS REALIZE THAT THEY MUST BE COMPETITIVE AND DO FOR THEMSELVES TO THE UTMOST, NOT RELY ONLY ON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. HE SAID BERLIN HAS MUCH TO OFFER, AND HE INTENDS RE-JIGGER SENAT IN SUCH WAY AS TO ENABLE AND ENCOURAGE BERLIN PUT ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD IN WASY AND AREAS NOT HITHERTO EXPLOITED SUFFICIENTLY. AS EXAMPLE, HE SAID HE HAS SELECTED FIRST-CLASS MAN TO BE SENATOR FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS, A NEW POSITION.

4. GOVERNING MAYOR SAID HIS SENAT LINE-UP IS JUST ABOUT COMPLETED, WITH ONLY ONE MAJOR DECISION STILL OUTSTANDING. IF THIS DECISION (EXPECTED MAY 9) GOES THE WAY HE HOPES IT WILL, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PRESENT WHOLE LINE-UP TO PARLIMAENT ON MAY 10 FOR CONFIRMATION ON MAY 11. IF NOT, HE SAID HE WOULD KEEP TRYING TO FILL POST PROPERLY. STOBBE SAID THAT HE COULD FILL ALL POSTS EASILY, BUT HE WANTS BEST PEOPLE GOING, AND EVENTUAL LINE-UP WILL DEMONSTRATE IT IS POSSIBLE ATTRACT GOOD TALENT FROM OUTSIDE TO FILL BERLIN POSTS, DESPITE HAZARD INVOLVED IN COMING HERE FOR WHAT MIGHT BE ONLY TWO YEARS. HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON NEW PEOPLE, OTHER THAN TO SAY FUTUTE SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFARIS WILL BE PERSON ALLIES ALREADY KNWO WELL. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN CONDUCTING SENAT RECRUITMENT DISCUSSION SIN CONFIDENCE, RATHER THAN VIA NEWSPAPERS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS SOMETHING NEW TO BERLIN WHICH HE THOUGHT PEOPLE HERE WOULD APPRECITAE. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USBERL 01246 091646Z

5. HE PAID GENEROUS TRIBUTE TO THIS PREDECESSOR, SAYING THIS HWOLE THING HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH NO PERSONAL BITTERNESS WHATEVER BETWEEN SCHUETZ AND HIMSELF, THAT STOBBE WOULD HAVE TO WORK HARD INDEED TO COME UP TO HIS LEVEL. HE SAID HE FELT CALM AND CONFIDENT AS HE FACED HIS FUTURE TASKS.

6. COMMENT: STOBBE GAVE GOOD SOLID IMPRESSION IN SESSION. HE SAID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, BUT PROOF OF PUDDING WILL OF COURSE BE IN EATING. TO DO IN BERLIN WHAT HE CLEARLY SEES NEEDS TO BE DONE WILL REQUIRE MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE, POLITICAL SAVVY, AND STEEL WILL YET TO BE DEMONSTRATED. NEW SENAT LINE-UP, WITH WHAT IT MAY SIGNIFY IN TERMS OF DUMPING BERLIN EQUIVALENT OF LOYAL RETAINERS AND GOOD OLD BOYS, WILL BE FIRST REAL INDICATION OF HOW WELL STOBBE WILL FACE UP TO JOB. END COMMENT. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEBRIEFINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL01246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770163-0609
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770577/aaaacojt.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9664c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2591031
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GOVERNING MAYOR APPRAISES SITUATION AND PROSPECTS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, WB, GE, GC, FR, UK, (STOBBE, DIETRICH)
To: BONN STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9664c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009